

February 3, 1976

SENATOR KENNEDY: I did not, Mr. President and fellow members, I did not speak, probably, on Senator Warner's amendment knowing exactly what it would do and at this time I would like to say, again, I think the bill I introduced, and I said this back eight years ago when I ran for the Legislature, when I would introduce a bill, it would be so simple that I would understand it, my mother-in-law would understand it, my neighbors would understand it and the law enforcement would certainly understand it and do what I felt was correct. Finally, I had the bill LB 628 introduced that I think is simple. I think it will do what the people want. Now if you want safety for a bicycle and you want to really do the right thing as the accident in Lincoln showed the other day, you probably would want heavy bumpers. You certainly would want either a helmet or a cab or roll bars involved in this bicycle for safety. The safety, and if you have raised children as I have and am still in the process and you have bicycles, you're concerned with that youngster's safety. I am and I am sure every parent should be, if they are not. We ought to see that those youngsters know how to ride a bicycle. That is our duty as parents. We ought to see that they are involved in the safety, not only of those persons themselves riding the bicycles, but the neighbor's youngsters. We ought to call it to their attention. There has been many volunteers offered that will serve in working with safety programs. If you irritate these volunteers, which we are doing continuously, saying this is what the federal government says we must do. We finally are down to a point we do not have to, in this case, do what the federal government has already done. I think we ought to repeal the bill that was passed two years ago, that we ought to stay with this simple bill that was introduced, the way it is, without any amendments, and I urge you to sincerely take an opportunity to do something that the people would enjoy that we might do down here in the Legislature is strike one law off of the books. The federal people will take care of us. They have and they will, but this is one opportunity we have got a chance to do something ourselves. I urge you to strike all amendments. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Mr. Chairman, I rise to my feet to ask you to please reject the Warner amendment and I will tell you why. First of all, I would like to comment on Senator Kennedy's statement that this is a simple bill. I will agree with him on that but it is so simple you have nothing. You take everything away, until the federal law is effective and that will be on May 11th, I believe. Now what does it do? It provides that the manufacturer of a bicycle shall equip the manufactured bicycle with a certain type of reflectorization. Okay, that does nothing at all for the thousands and thousands of bicycles that are now in operation in the State of Nebraska. Now someone said that it won't be long until all the bicycles will be equipped with reflectorized material. Well how long? Five years? Ten years? How many lives will be lost in